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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

Restoring Texas. Raiford Stripling's Life and Architecture. By Michael McCullar. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1985. Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 161. \$29.95.

This is an engaging life story of a man who is truly an East Texan, by birth, by lineage, by choice; a Son of the Republic of Texas, a Knight of San Jacinto. The publication provides ample evidence that because Raiford Stripling's accomplishments in the field of preservation encompass more than historic sites and structures in East Texas all Texans are indebted to him for his perserverance, skill, and innovative approaches in saving so much of Texas' past for us and future generations.

Michael McCullar's book has been well researched and well developed. Raiford's personal life and the specific Texas landmarks he restored are each accorded sufficient discussion and photo coverage to please the professional as well as the lay reader without either becoming bored.

Persons who would read this book in advance of visiting the many historic shrines restored by Stripling, such as Mission Espiritu Santo and Presidio La Bahia, would learn of their significance to Texas history and would appreciate more the dedication of the restoration architect in overcoming the frustrations caused by apathy, financial, material, and labor limitations.

One of McCullar's objectives beyond recording the story of this singular man is that the objective of giving encouragement to the public and the fledgling architect that historic preservation can be done, in spite of roadblocks, has been very adequately accomplished.

Charles K. Phillips
Nacogdoches, Texas

Texas Baptist Leadership and Social Christianity, 1900-1980. By John W. Storey. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-4354), 1986. Photographs. Index. P. 236. \$22.50.

A major thesis of Storey's book, which he supports quite adequately, states that Texas Baptists developed a social conscience and consciousness that has been largely ignored by those writing on social manifestations in American Christianity.

Storey identifies four bases of influence within Texas Baptist life: The *Baptist Standard*, the highly circulated weekly newspaper published in Dallas; pastors of large urban congregations, many of whom have had national notoriety; full-time executives in the Baptist General Convention of Texas bureaucracy, particularly highlighting the Christian Life Com-

mission; and professors at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

The book details the contributions of such notable personalities as T.B. Maston, retired ethics professor at Southwestern; Foy Valentine, retiring executive of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission; Joseph M. Dawson, Texas pastor and national leader in religious liberty causes; and J. Frank Norris, perennial thorn in the flesh of almost every other person mentioned in Storey's chronicle.

The reader will be assured that Texas Baptists formed a social Christianity from a base of theological conservatism. Their roots have not automatically associated social ethics with theological liberalism.

Storey describes Norris and his post-World War I fundamentalism doing battle with Dawson, George W. Truett of Dallas, and B.H. Carroll, founder of Southwestern and first president of the school. This is as fine a presentation in concise form as I have seen in print on Norris.

Just over half of the writing comprises a history of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission. Storey cogently indicates the distinctions in leadership style of the various individuals who have directed that key denominational agency.

The author discusses the critiques of Samuel S. Hill, Jr. and John Lee Eighmy, along with others, with some corrections of the common perception of Baptists' social witness. A brief presentation of a few Texas personalities who loom large in the current S.B.C. controversy adds to the merit of the volume.

Storey has footnoted well with both bibliographical and explanatory material. A bibliographical note of two and one-half pages concludes the book rather than a formal bibliography. Therein the reader finds a helpful window on Storey's research methodology.

Jerry Self

Tennessee Baptist Convention

Castro's Colony. Empresario Development in Texas, 1843-1865. By Bobby D. Weaver. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1985. Photographs. Maps. Bibliography. Index. P. 158.

Bobby D. Weaver proposed to examine the background, founding, and daily life in the Castro Colony. He also aimed to show the relationship of this colony to early Texas history, and to the Peters Colony in northeast Texas and the German settlements at New Braunfels and Fredericksburg. The author admirably achieved his goals.

Weaver's exhaustive research fully utilized available sources, and his work significantly contributes to the literature on early Texas. In organization and presentation, the author skillfully leads the reader through the story while maintaining interest to the end.

Henri Castro, at ease in the salons of Paris and of Europe, adapted to the harsh frontier existence where his colony was established in what is now Medina County just west of San Antonio. He spoke excellent English along with the diverse languages of his colonists. His commanding presence and oratorical skills helped him quell discontent and near riots among his settlers.

Castro's grants at one time extended to the Rio Grande, but the settlements of Castroville, Quihi, Dhanis, and Vandenburg were his monuments to success. The empresario transported some 2,100 colonists to Texas from 1843 to 1847, although only about 600 settlers remained in his colony when the grant expired in 1847. Castro died in Monterrey, Mexico, in 1862, and was buried there.

William W. White
Seguin, Texas

Ima Hogg The Governor's Daughter. By Virginia Bernhard. (Texas Monthly Press, P.O. Box 1569, Austin, Texas, 78767), 1984. Photographs. Sources. Index. P. 144. \$18.95.

Ima Hogg is a delightful book on the life of the only daughter of Governor James S. Hogg. Miss Hogg is introduced as a ninety-three year old woman in London who falls, is injured, and within a few days dies as a result of these injuries. The author then proceeds to deal with Ima Hogg's personality, ability to persuade, and her accomplishments.

Most of the book deals with the accomplishments of this unusual woman. Known as the Grand Dame of Texas, Ima Hogg was a foremost collector of American antiques, surpassing many East Coast collectors, a collection which she gave to the Houston Museum of Fine Arts and to the city of Houston, in her museum home, Bayou Bend, at River Oaks. Some of the most interesting aspects of this book were the unusual and often amusing stories of her acquisition of these antiques. Also, her historic preservation of Winedale, an old German community in the Hill Country, is discussed. Other than history, her contributions to music (the Houston Symphony) and to mental health in the establishment of the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health are of great importance to Texas. The active social life resulting from all these interests kept her constantly busy, and, therefore, young.

Of great value to historians, the book includes much about the Hogg family and would be useful as a source especially in a study of James S. Hogg and his other three children, all sons. The devotion to her father shows as Ima constantly defends him and his memory until the day she died. This devotion was not healthy, perhaps, because of the bouts she had with depression after his death. Very interesting information is given on the

Hogg fortune, how they acquired it, how it was distributed among the children, and how they gave it away.

Virginia Bernhard's interest in Ima Hogg as a collector of American antiques was the catalyst for this work. She oftentimes repeats many of the spectacular contributions of Miss Hogg throughout the book. If, in fact, this was intentional, I will say reading it so many times helped me to remember and appreciate all the things Ima Hogg did for Texans. Of greatest interest to me was the new source material she was able to use, but which is not available yet to those interested in researching the Hogg family. Having these sources gave her an edge on other articles and books on this family.

Linda Cross
Tyler Junior College

Voyages of the Steamboat Yellow Stone. By Donald Jackson. (Ticknor & Fields. 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY 10017), 1985. Photographs. Notes. Maps. Appendices. Index. P. 192. \$16.95.

The steamboat *Yellow Stone* began its career in St. Louis in April 1831 with the American Fur Company. Used to transport trading parties and goods, the boat worked its way up the Missouri River further than any steamboat had gone before, reaching beyond the mouth of the Yellowstone River in the summer of 1832. The boat was sold by the American Fur Company and worked the Mississippi River until December 1835 when it steamed from New Orleans to Galveston carrying volunteers in the growing struggle by Texian colonists against the Mexican government. The vessel entered Texas myth and legend when it was commandeered by Sam Houston to help ferry troops across the Brazos River before the Battle of San Jacinto. In December 1836 the steamboat carried the body of Stephen F. Austin down the Brazos to his first resting place at Peach Point Plantation. Less than a year later the vessel disappeared from history.

Donald Jackson's account of the *Yellow Stone* is an interesting account of early nineteenth-century high tech. His detailed description of the vessel and of steamboating in general are of particular value to anyone interested in the history of transportation. He also uses the *Yellow Stone* for what it was, a stage upon and around which played many minor and some major figures in the history of Western expansion, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., George Catlin, William Clark, Washington Irving, Sam Houston, Santa Anna, and Stephan F. Austin.

The book is a worthwhile addition to any collection dealing with the West or the history of transportation, and though only one fourth of the book deals with Texas, *Voyages of the Steamboat Yellow Stone* is also a worthwhile addition to any serious collection of Texana.

Ron Spiller
Nacogdoches, Texas

Charles DeMorse: Pioneer Statesman and Father of Texas Journalism.

By Ernest Wallace. (The Wright Press, Box 94, Paris, TX 75460), 1985. Maps. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. P. 237.

This reprint of a 1943 biography by a former Texas State Historical Association president, then Horn Professor of history at Texas Tech, will make available to many Texans information they otherwise might not have known about one of the state's most important figures of the nineteenth century.

Charles DeMorse (changed from Charles D. Morse by a quirk of fate) has been called the father of the Democratic Party in Texas as well as the father of the Texas press — he was the first president of the Texas Press & Editorial Association.

A veteran of San Jacinto and a brigadier in the Civil War, he is less well known as a major author of the constitution under which we still operate and as the runner-up to Richard Coke for the gubernatorial nomination in 1873.

DeMorse's reputation rests largely, however, upon the integrity and insight he brought to public affairs as editor and publisher of the Clarksville *Northern Standard*. In that capacity he practiced a professional creed to which some former ink-stained wretches wish more of today's press would adhere (pages 23-24).

In hindsight, Wallace probably would like to have this putt back, as golf telecasters like to say. For example, later scholarship belies his statement that the *Standard* was "the only paper of importance in North and Northeast Texas," and the author undoubtedly would like to reevaluate it, for instance, against the Marshall *Texas Republican* and San Augustine *Red Lander*. But then what historiographer would not like to do a rewrite forty-two years later.

That said, this is a solid piece of research and documentation. It deserves a place on the shelf of any Texan with an interest in journalism, politics, and government, and The Wright Press is to be congratulated for this re-issue of a work long out of print.

Max S. Lale
Marshall and Fort Worth

Liberty, Liberty County, and the Atascosita District. By Miriam Partlow. (Jenkins Publishing Co., Box 2085, Austin, TX 78768), 1974. Maps. Notes. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. P. 369. \$14.95.

and

The Handbook of Commerce, Texas 1872-1985. Friends of the Commerce Public Library. (Henington Publishing Co., Wolfe City, TX 75496), 1985. P. 172.

The Atascosito District of southeast Texas boasts a truly varied and significant past. Settled originally as a Spanish outpost in 1756, Atascosito became the administrative center for a district encompassing most of southeast Texas. The town was moved a few miles southwest from its original site to a location on the Trinity River in 1831 and renamed Liberty by settlers from the United States. In the years following the Texas Revolution, ten counties, including Liberty, were created from this district. Partlow gives more space to the Atascosito District in general than to the county or the town of Liberty; thus her book is as much a regional as a county or municipal history.

Liberty, Liberty County, and the Atascosito District is highly informative, documenting the stories of people and events as varied as the Napoleonic veterans who established a short-lived colony at Champ D'Asile on the Trinity in 1818, the Anahuac disturbances of 1832, the origin of Anglo-American cattle ranching in Texas, and the Spindletop oil strike. And, as a bonus, it is extremely useful too because the author included original materials such as the 1826 Atascosito District census, lists of county government officials, and the muster rolls of Confederate companies raised in the area. Partlow's book is both a historical study and a resource in itself.

The Handbook of Commerce, Texas 1872-1985 is a product of the local history collection at the Commerce Public Library. Most of its entries were submitted voluntarily, and therefore some families and some aspects of the town's life received a good deal more attention than did others. A few entries are so brief and incomplete as to be of little value, but many are interesting and informative. Entries on the various churches, for example, contain valuable detail on that aspect of the town's life. Others, taken together, tell the story of significant changes. For example, the autobiographical entry by A.C. Williams, a black educator, describes how he had to leave Commerce in the late 1920s to pursue schooling beyond the elementary level because the town had no black high school and Negroes were not permitted at East Texas State. James Conrad's entry on integration shows how the barriers faced by Williams came down during the 1960s. The Friends of the Commerce Public Library are to be commended for their interest in their community's history and their efforts to preserve it.

Randolph B. Campbell
North Texas State University

Indians, Cattle, Ships, and Oil: The Story of W.M.D. Lee. By Donald F. Schofield. University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713, 1985. Index. Bibliography. Notes. P. 205.

W.M.D. Lee was the sort of man who usually escapes the notice of historians. Though moderately successful as a cattleman, he was no Charles Goodnight. He promoted visionary development schemes to no immediate personal advantage. When other men were making grander fortunes in Texas oil, he was drilling dry holes and marginal producers. He robbed no banks. He was not an obvious candidate for a biography.

After years of diligent digging, Donald F. Schofield has discovered the real merit of Lee: he is a classic example of the middling sort of person who finally prospered because he always kept his eye on "the main chance." Whatever the obstacles, Lee seized every opportunity he saw and did whatever it took to turn a dollar. He amassed a small fortune peddling rifles, whiskey, and other goods to Indians, after paying the conventional bribes to federal officials. He used capital from these ventures to build a small Panhandle cattle empire. Thereafter he moved to southeast Texas to speculate in real estate and oil. His fortune was finally made in the West Columbia field, where he held a lease that offset an early mammoth well.

In all of these ventures, Lee always threw himself into the chase. He thrived on horse-trading, promotion, and risk-taking. The author has given us a memorable character, the sort of "true Texan" that *Texas Monthly* has been tracking for more than a decade. In all, however, Lee was somewhat less remarkable than Schofield made him out to be. He was certainly not the first oil man who stopped drilling to extract damaged pipe, nor was he the first to run casing and pack shallow wells. It is also hard to credit him with the sort of prescience the author grants him: "As was probably expected, the first well came in dry . . ." (p. 129) Lee actually seems to have been an unexceptional small independent who drilled randomly on the basis of hunches, none of them top quality. His final success, as a royalty owner, was more the result of his inclination to follow oil field action and speculate on its outcome than of either intelligence or skill. For this reason, he is more representative of early Texas oil men than industry titans such as J.S. Cullinan.

This brief book will appeal to readers and collectors of Texana. Three full chapters deal with land promotions and oil ventures in East Texas and are thus of special interest to historians of this region. The whole volume is carefully documented and well written.

Roger M. Olien
The University of Texas-Permian Basin

The Forgotten Cattle King. By Benton R. White. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1986. Photographs. Maps. Bibliography. Index. P. 138. \$14.95.

Los Mestenos. Spanish Ranching in Texas, 1721-1821. By Jack Jackson. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1986. Illustrations. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. P. 704. \$34.50.

Western cattlemen, cowboys, and the cattle industry continue to attract writers and the reading public as subjects for serious study. These significant books on Fountain Goodlet Oxsheer and Spanish ranching in Texas attest to the continuing interest.

After the Civil War, F.G. Oxsheer, the forgotten cattle king, built a ranching empire that stretched through the Southwest from Oklahoma and West Texas across the Rio Grande to Chihuahua. On eighteen large ranches he grazed stock that in 1915 cowboys counted by the tens of thousands. Depressed cattle prices and unrelenting drought in the 1910s and 1920s reduced much of his huge domain in the period before his death in 1931. A typical nineteenth-century cattleman, who included among his friends C.C. Slaughter, Amon Carter, and Sid Richardson, Oxsheer kept much of his business in his head, thus making the writing of his biography no easy task. The book is a study in praise of its subject.

Los Mestenos is a thorough, lengthy study that treats the Spanish-Texas ranching industry through a century after 1721. It is based solidly on Spanish records, particularly the Bexar Archives at the University of Texas, but traditional, and respected, secondary sources are not ignored. In the long and sometimes heated controversy among Texas scholars concerning the background of the Texas and western ranching industry the book represents a convincing argument for Spanish, as opposed to Anglo, antecedents in the Southwest. The author, a free-lance writer and artist, has included many fine drawings. He has also shown meticulous skill in tracing the introduction of the first herds, the conflicts over cattle ownership, the emergence of dynastic ranches, the attempts of colonial authorities to regulate ranching, and the celebrated "Big Roundup" in 1787.

Although they represent scholarly endeavors, the books emphasize narrative form over analysis. They are vividly written, however, and deserve a wide reading, for both are carefully designed and thoughtfully crafted.

Paul H. Carlson
Texas Tech University

Texas: A Literary Portrait. By Don Graham. (Corona Publishing Co., San Antonio, Texas, 78205), 1985. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 243.

Don Graham is instructor of Life and Literature of the Southwest at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of *Cowboys and Cadillacs: How Hollywood Looks at Texas*. His most recent book, *Texas: A Literary Portrait*, discussed the way Texas is portrayed in literature.

The book is divided into geographical regions: East Texas, the Gulf Coast, the border, West Texas, and Urban Texas. Graham shows how literature either misrepresents the true image of Texas or has combined truths and half-truths about the Lone Star State.

Graham's work combines excerpts from fifty well-known authors and gives an impressionistic view of Texas through the eyes of both fiction and non-fiction writers. Obviously a lot of time and work went into its completion, but the book lacks cohesiveness in its overall statement.

Considering the topic of Graham's book is not an easy one to begin with, it is quite understandable that its construction lacks differentiation between one region to the next and the myth and realities of each region.

In conclusion, *Texas: A Literary Portrait*, is a good overview of the mythical ideas regarding Texas that have developed in Texas literature. It also gives some truths to help clear up these myths. For the average reader, however, the book taxes the reader's patience and is, at times, hard to follow.

Thomas Stroud
Nurnberg, West Germany

Warning: Writer at Work: The Best Collectibles of Larry King. By Larry L. King. (Texas Christian University Press, 1985. Distributed through Texas A&M University Press. Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1985. Illustrations. P. 287.

King's work is a journey back in time to when life in a small West Texas town was the land of Oz to a small boy. The majority of the work deals with King's recollection of yesteryear, "Texas style." In all of the stories, a subtheme is racial tension. King's view is that Texas and most Southerners mistreated blacks in the 1940s and 1950s. Even as a youth King was an anthesis to this ideology and often questioned it. Additionally, he shows how the death of small Texas towns ended an era of "Little House on the Prairie" ideals. This death is a normal progress toward an industrial state.

The people who shaped King's view of Texas also shaped the world view of the state. King admits that Texans are a rare breed of people because of their pride and tradition. Even though King lives in Washington, his roots are cemented in the West Texas theology. The benefit of his work

is two-fold: we know how Larry King's past made the man; but more importantly, we see why Texans have their "Texas unity" even if they live in New York.

Thomas Guth
Nacogdoches, Texas

The Good Old Boys. By Elmer Kelton. Afterward by Don Graham. (Texas Christian University Press, Fort Worth, TX 76129), 1985. P. 257. \$16.95.

Recently one-hundred members of the Western Writers of America — real, working, well-read professionals — picked a list of twenty-six "Best Western Novels." Elmer Kelton appeared on a list which includes such names as Walter Van Tilburg Clark, Jack Schaefer, Conrad Richter, and A.B. Guthrie Jr. In fact, two of Kelton's books are listed: *The Time It Never Rained* (also reprinted by TCU) and *The Day the Cowboys Quit*. *The Good Old Boys*, as Don Graham states in his "Afterward," certainly merits a critical evaluation as high if not higher than these earlier works. I would plead that case. In fact, *The Good Old Boys* may be the real *Shane*.

Unlike Schaefer's *Shane*, Hewey Calloway is not a paranoid, mythical, larger-than-life gunslinger escaping an unnamed set of circumstances. Kelton's hero is an over sentimental naif who has had the misfortune/fortune of cowboying through an era when most cowpunchers have roped a piece of real estate upon which to culture their dreams. Hewey, wanting to rest a bit from the trail, drops by to see his brother and sister-in-law, Walter and Eve, and their two boys. Hewey's lack of social grace doesn't bother him although he tries to steer clear of Walter's outspoken, household-driving wife, Eve. At times a pitiable comic misfit, Hewey is also a heroic and morally straight arbiter of all not right with a Southwest growing up. Like the Virginian, he is timid from inexperience with "saintly" ladies, but displays a horizon-wide ego when asked to ride a street more befitting cowboys than gentlemen. Hewey is an anachronism who thinks in mythic proportions. This land is *his* land; he has earned it by riding its breadth and width.

Kelton's story has a wonderfully divided point of view. "Fun," pure and simple, is a staple to Hewey's way of life. From the respectable side of the street, Hewey is a ne'er-do-well, always jumping without thinking, always bringing black clouds to hover over respectables who indulge him. But from Hewey's side of the saddle (the topside, where the person rides the horse), his brother and farmer neighbors seem laborers who won't take the time to smell the sagebrush.

Unlike *Shane*, Hewey is no fancy-Dan who knows the style of Eastern ladies' apparel: "They was wearin' dresses ... If they hadn't been, I reckon I'd of noticed." But like *Shane*, when called upon to give up his free way of life to protect what is dear and moral, he willingly plunges

in "to give 'er hell." And so the conflict: Walter, funning with Hewey, is injured. Now the good old boy is the only force between the bank and the life for which Walter and Eve have sweated. Responsibility stomps hard and sudden. The anachronism must face the world of the automobile and the mortgage. The noose tightens quickly on the new cowboy breadwinner. Like the Virginian, Hewey even has a schoolteacher friend with marriage on her mind.

There are no non-characters in Kelton's novel. Not only that, the weave of character, circumstance, conflict, love, prank, and cowboyng sometimes produces a canvas of words reminiscent of Russell, Seltzer, or Remington. A bath in a stock tank, the plight of an aging cowboy drifter, a runaway team pulling schoolmarm and cowboy friend, raising a windmill with a team of mules, even digging postholes and scraping out an earthen water tank provide the rustic realism expected by Kelton readers. This is the kind of realism that escapes many of our "big name, smell-of-gunsmoke" writers who pollute the term "Western" on the paperback racks.

Does Hewey escape civilization? Manage to save the farm for Walter and Eve? Encourage Walter's older boy to escape the farm and study automobiles in the big city? Serve time in the calaboose of the sheriff who tracks him down? Marry or escape the schoolmarm? Remain true to his trail-tried morality? . . . Kelton handles all this and more adeptly and realistically.

And do Walter's sons follow Hewey over the hill pleading for his mythic return? Well, even better than that! But the details of the climax and denouement should be the property of the reader.

Kelton began the work while watching his own father die. He says that "to help pass the long hours, I encouraged him to retell many of the old stories I remembered from boyhood." Though "few . . . of his stories actually were incorporated into the novel, their infectious color and spirit became the heart and soul of it." As Kelton's father did for young Elmer, Hewey Calloway ushers Walter's older boy, Cotton, from the cowboy era into a time of automobiles and electricity. Hewey is a much more realistic anachronism than Shane. In fact, the good old boy is the real Shane.

This is a wonderful book. Also beautifully printed and bound. TCU is again due a large measure of thanks. Here's hoping they will see fit to republish *The Day the Cowboys Quit* to complete one of the finest Western trilogies available — while the author is still living.

Lee Schultz

Stephen F. Austin State University

Alamo Images: Changing Perspectives of a Texas Experience. By Susan Prendergast Schoelwer. (DeGolyer Library and Southern Methodist University Press, Dallas, TX 75275), 1985. Photographs. Maps. Illustrations. Exhibition Checklist. Bibliography. Index. P. 223.

The battle of the Alamo is the most effectively illustrated myth in American history. In lieu of the fact that there were no survivors among its white male defenders, this violent and dramatic struggle appeals to our emotions and gives us gallant, almost superhuman heroes. Because there were no survivors, an enormous amount of the Alamo's history has been based more upon conjecture and fantasy than upon verifiable evidence.

In this third volume of the DeGolyer Library Publications Series, Susan Prendergast Schoelwer has put together an amazing compilation of Alamo memorabilia, fact, and fantasy. This book was written in conjunction with the exhibition of *Alamo Images* at the DeGolyer Library's Fikes Hall of Special Collections at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

The Alamo has always existed in two different parts of our minds. There is the one of historical fact and the one of our collective imagination. One Alamo was a mission and fortress and is now a shrine. The other has become a cultural and political symbol. Attributes have a tendency to represent different things to different people. Thus a historical and sacred shrine has been used to sell rental cars, real estate, banking services, dog food, "coonskin caps," and plastic Bowie knives. It has also sold history and propaganda.

It is sometimes difficult to distinguish clearly between the Alamo of fact and the Alamo of popular fancy. The author points out that although an amazing body of historical and popular literature has been generated on the battle, little serious attention has been devoted to it recently by professional academic historians. One of the reasons is the Alamo is such a popular historical topic. So much has been produced that there is little left to cover. As a result the Alamo of our imagination has become dominant and has attained a psychological importance in our national mind that is greater than that of the historical Alamo and certainly more meaningful to us than military victories such as San Jacinto. Consequently the Alamo that we exhibit such a strong emotion for today has emerged from a conglomeration of popular histories, novels, plays, poems, songs, paintings, television programs, advertisements, and motion pictures.

A powerful mythical saga such as the story of the Alamo has the tendency to be embraced by people and characterizes them, manifesting common beliefs and cultural symbols. The story of the Alamo embraces noble themes of courage, sacrifice, betrayal, and redemption. Its major heroes — Travis, Bowie, and Crockett — have long ceased to be mere mortals but have been transformed into legends.

Alamo Images is a superb book that offers a wide variety of sources

dealing with the historical as well as mythical Alamo. It is a work that is filled with virtually everything ever produced on the subject. The historic documents, books, letters, photographs, and other sources explain the story of the battle and its heroes, the story of the historical Alamo. At the same time, the paintings, novels, movie memorabilia, iconographs, and kitsch pieces help trace the evolution of the Alamo myth, the Alamo of our collective imagination. *Alamo Images* is superb in revealing the difference between these two equally important Alamos.

Mark Steven Choate
Nacogdoches, Texas

The Alamo and Other Texas Missions to Remember. By Nancy Haston Foster. (Gulf Printing Co., P.O. Box 2608, Houston, TX 77001), 1984. Photographs. Maps. Index. P. 88. \$9.95.

This nicely designed guide book to Texas missions will prove of interest to history buffs and tourists in the Lone Star state. Some historical background is given for each of the nine missions still standing in Texas, and additional resource material is suggested by the author. The emphasis of the book, however, is not so much on history as on how the visitor can get the most out of a visit to the missions. That is, of course, to be expected in a guide book.

Clear directions are given on how to reach each mission. Nice maps locate the missions, while diagrams assist the reader to understand the original boundaries of the sprawling mission grounds. Information is also provided on architectural styles and on efforts at restoration and archeological study. Since the missions are grouped by location - such as San Antonio and El Paso - information is also provided on annual events and festivities worth planning a visit around.

Although of no use to the serious historian, this attractive guide book will undoubtedly find a ready market among tourists and local weekend adventurers.

Paul Andrew Hutton
University of New Mexico

Walter Prescott Webb in Stephens County. By Mike Kingston. (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23066, Austin, TX 78735), 1985. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. P. 87. \$9.95.

In *Walter Prescott Webb in Stephens County* Mike Kingston, editor of the *Texas Almanac*, has provided an in-depth look into the early life of Walter Prescott Webb. Moving to Stephens County with his family in 1892, Webb observed the peculiarities in this part of the Great Plains. Listening to the tales of local residents, he learned how settlers had survived the challenge of this western environment, the women fighting In-

dians and loneliness and the men struggling against the natural elements. Moreover, he "got an education about life." (p. 35) In particular while in Stephens County, he became acquainted with such people as Henry Yandell Benedict, a future president of the University of Texas, Robert Hefner, a future mayor of Oklahoma City, and William E. Hinds, his benefactor in New York, who were instrumental in showing Webb his strengths and weaknesses and in giving his ambitions direction.

In an easy-reading style, Kingston has contributed to the writings about historian Walter Prescott Webb. By describing the life, environment, and history of Stephens County, he has revealed the countryside where Webb "touched the hem of the garment of the real frontier." (p. iii)

Janet Schmelzer
Tarleton State University

"Pidge," A Texas Ranger From Virginia, The Life and Letters of Lieutenant T.C. Robinson, Washington County Volunteer Militia Company "A." By Chuck Parsons. (Henington Publishing Company, Wolfe City, Texas), 1985. Photographs. Notes. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. P. 147.

Virginian T.C. Robinson came to Texas after his romance with a neighbor, Pidge Mitchell, was thwarted by her brother Jesse. While serving as first lieutenant to the famous Texas Ranger captain, Leander H. McNelly, Robinson wrote witty, observant letters for Austin newspapers under the wistful pseudonym "Pidge." Robinson exuberantly described his adventures against Sutton-Taylor feudists and Mexican border raiders, then took leave to visit Virginia, where he was killed in a shootout with Jesse Robinson.

Chuck Parsons, a resourceful researcher of Texas Rangers and gun-fighters, has produced an unconventional volume about Robinson. The book is primarily a reproduction of the amusing letters submitted by "Pidge" during his Ranger service. There is little narrative, although the author has devoted one-fifth of the book to meticulously footnoting the letters. Parsons has provided numerous new illustrations, although many of the photos are dimly reproduced. *"Pidge"* is not meant for the general reader, but students of Texas rangers or feuds will find this book a useful research source.

Bill O'Neal
Panola Junior College

Buck Barry: Texas Ranger and Frontiersman. Edited by James K. Greer. (University of Nebraska Press, 901 N. 17th, Lincoln, NE 68588), 1985. Index. P. 254. \$6.95.

When you spend the greater part of your life studying the American

West, as I have, one thing you find out is that no matter what part of the country you go to you'll find more unsung heroes than the story (or history!) books could ever fit in. James Buckner Barry was one such man. As with most men of his day he was versatile, whether doing duty as a Texas Ranger, soldier in the Civil War, and sheriff, or serving as a legislator in the 1880s in Texas. When he wasn't serving others he tried his hand at ranching and stock farming, at which he was moderately successful. He wasn't Bowie or Travis or Houston, just his own man, and that was what counted.

James K. Greer has done an excellent job of reconstructing Barry's story through reminiscences and private papers. It reads just as well today as when it was first published in 1932.

Jim Miller
Aurora, Colorado

The Trail to Ogallala. By Benjamin Capps. (Texas Christian University Press, P.O. Box 30776, Fort Worth, TX 76129), 1985. P. 285. \$16.95.

Benjamin Capps' *The Trail to Ogallala* is the latest number in the Texas Tradition Series of the TCU Press. Readers familiar with the history and literature of the range and trail will quickly realize that the author owes much to the traditions of scores of old cattle drovers whose stories comprise J. Marvin Hunter's *Trail Drivers of Texas*. Capps relies heavily on this old classic to fashion his own characters and plot. The influence of Andy Adams and J. Frank Dobie on the swiftly moving narrative also are unmistakable and make this novel sturdier and more authentic than most popular Western fiction.

Although the action of the plot, punctuated here and there by stampedes and river crossings, is fairly predictable, the underlying theme of the book revolves around the elusive nature of leadership. When he is denied the opportunity to boss the I-D connected herd to Nebraska from South Texas, Capps' main character, young Billy Scott, must stifle his disappointment and anger until his opportunity finally comes. Scott slowly matures on the drive until he finally understands that respect and leadership must be earned. After the trail boss is killed during a harrowing night stampede and the *segundo*, Blackie, proves an unworthy successor, Billy Scott rises to the occasion and sees the drive to its destination.

The Trail to Ogallala provides an interesting counterpoint to the recently released and more flamboyant trail epic *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry. Capps' book is by far the shorter of the two both in pages and plot. But like lean beef, the product will be more appealing to many consumers. This new edition of the 1964 novel is accompanied by a new forward by the author as well as an insightful afterward by Don Graham which places Capps' effort within the context of the Western genre.

B. Byron Price
Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum

If These Walls Could Speak: Historic Forts of Texas. Paintings by J.U. Salvant and text by Robert M. Utley. (University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, Texas, 78713), 1985. Paintings and alphabetized bibliography. P. 64.

Between 1849 and 1890 thirty-three forts were built on the frontier of Texas to protect settlers from Indian raids and to patrol the boundary with Mexico. Today only two, Fort Sam Houston at San Antonio, and Fort Bliss at El Paso, remain in service. The others have crumbled away, in most cases taking their stories with them.

In this book J.U. Salvant and Robert M. Utley unite to give readers an interesting, brief, and informative history of ten of these forts.

The book, with its 9½ x 11 pages, lends itself to Salvant's well-researched paintings. Her examples of the different buildings found on a fort go far to dispel the Hollywood image of a western fort.

Utley brings to life the stories of soldiers' lives in these forts in a very readable fashion. From the camel experiment at Fort Lancaster to the narrow escape of General William Tecumseh Sherman from a Kiowa ambush near Fort Richardson, Utley succeeds in whetting the reader's appetite for further study. There is a good bibliography of suggested readings at the end of the book.

Richard Johnson
Jasper, Texas

Heads, Hides & Horns The Compleat Buffalo Book. By Larry Barsness. (Texas Christian University Press, Box 30783, Fort Worth, Texas 76129), 1985. Photographs. Illustrations. Notes. Selected Bibliography. Index. P. 233. \$40.00.

What exactly is pemican? The answer to this and other questions pertaining to the buffalo can be found in *Heads, Hides & Horns*. Full of facts on the lore and myths of the buffalo, the book is a well-researched history of the animal's significant relationship with the land and people of North America. Barsness describes the evolution of the American bison and its characteristics. He concentrates on the buffalo's impact on man — prehistoric, Indian, and European — and he shows how man utilized the buffalo for food, clothing, shelter, and ceremony.

The Indian's social life and customs were dominated by their dependence on the buffalo. The European used the buffalo as well, but more for profit than for survival. Descriptions of buffalo hunting, many from first-hand accounts, make one sense how easily the white man and the Indian became addicted to the hunt itself. The demise of the buffalo, and consequently the Indian culture, is narrated compassionately as is the long delayed response of the white man to take steps to preserve the buffalo.

The book itself is attractive. Its pages are large (9x12), printed in double columns, and filled with over one-hundred photographs and illustrations by such artists as Charles M. Russell and Frederic Remington. The artwork adds depth to his well-written descriptions. Barsness' references are varied and range from the accounts of early Spanish and French explorers to modern conservationists. The book is ideal not only for the casual reader but also for the serious one. Since it includes many anecdotes almost any reader is bound to find interesting details on the different aspects of buffalo lore and history. Barsness has succeeded in presenting an overall informative, interesting, and complete book on the buffalo, and his book will be a desired addition to the shelf of anyone who is a Western United States history buff. For the curious, pemican is dried buffalo meat that has been pounded to small pieces and mixed with melted buffalo tallow and marrow. The complete recipe is in the book.

Brian I. Bowles
Jasper, Texas

Buckskins, Bullets, and Business. A History of Buffalo Bill's Wild West. By Sarah J. Blackstone. (Greenwood Press, Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881), 1986. Photographs. Notes. Bibliographic Essay. Index. P. 197. \$27.95.

The myth of the American West has come to us through many sources such as dime novels, films, letters, brochures, etc. Perhaps no source, however, has been as unique and successful as entertainment and myth-maker as was Buffalo Bill Cody himself and his Wild West show.

Although Buffalo Bill and his show were anchored originally in fact, both became exaggerations in an attempt to capture and maintain audiences. In an attempt to present audiences with the opportunity to see genuine gunfighters, cowboys, and Indians recreate stagecoach robberies and battles. Buffalo Bill's Wild West, which began as a rodeo and eventually became a circus, was consciously designed to convey specific messages, such as patriotism, expansionism, normalcy.

Anyone interested in the West should enjoy this book.

Michael K. Schoenecke
Texas Tech University

Tame The Wild Stallion. By Jeanne Williams. Illustrated by Walle Conolly. (Texas Christian Univ. Press, P.O. Box 30776, Fort Worth, TX 76129), 1985. Illustrations. P. 70. \$10.95.

Lone Hunter's Gray Pony. By Donald Worcester. Illustrated by Paige Pauley. (Texas Christian Univ. Press, P.O. Box 30776, Fort Worth, TX 76129), 1985. P. 98. \$14.95 Cloth; \$8.95 Paper.

The Summerfield Stories. By J.M. Ferguson, Jr. (Texas Christian Univ. Press, P.O. Box 30776, Fort Worth, TX 76129), 1985. Illustrations. P. 181. \$14.95.

The Texas Christian University Press has published a troika of fiction books, one book of short stories, and two juvenile novels. All deal with the Southwest and Texas. *The Summerfield Stories* by J.M. Ferguson, Jr. are a collection of nine short stories. Though considered individually they are autonomous works; these *nine* stories, which appeared previously in two literary magazines *Descant* and *Arizona Quarterly*, share a common set of characters — an unnamed narrator, his friend Summerfield, Summerfield's daughter Elaine, and a college professor named Doc Shelley. These stories are not so much about a physical place as a place in the mind, a state of being. Overall the tales portray the wonder and mystery of life, but even more poignantly the sadness, loneliness and alienation. The last story — my favorite — has an almost poetic style to the narration and provokes a common feeling that most travelers of the Southwest share at one time or another. Mr. Ferguson's strong, powerful, prose style has a devastating impact on the reader.

The two juvenile novels present a less complicated, less dark picture of life — as fitting young people's literature — being essentially straight forward adventure stories for young people, very much in the tradition of *Treasure Island*. In fact, *Tame the Wild Stallion*, by Jeannie Williams, is a reprint of a book which won the Cokesbury Bookstore Best Texas Juvenile Award from the Texas Institute of Letters in 1957. Mrs. Williams is a prolific writer of books. *Tame the Wild Stallion* tells the adventures of a young Texan, Joe Mitchells. His father's herd of mustangs are stolen and Joe sets out alone to track the horse thieves south of the Rio Grande, where he is captured by Don Enrique and is forced to live a year on a hacienda. The story is set in the 1850s. The novel is a fast paced adventure, exciting and — probably more important — presents a favorable view of Mexican life and Mexican people. This is a definite winner for your people ten to sixteen years of age and older.

The best of the lot is *Lone Hunter's Gray Pony*, the first in a series of stories about a young Ogallala Sioux and his adventures. Well illustrated by Paige Pauley, the book is both an exciting story and a wealth of information on Indian life. The author, Donald Worcester, is a retired professor of history at TCU and has done extensive research on the Indian tribes of the Southwest. The TCU Press is to be congratulated on making these three books available to the general reading public.

James H. Conrad
East Texas State University

Remembering America. A Sampler of the WPA American Guide Series.

By Archie Hobson, Editor. (Columbia University Press, 562 West 113rd Street, New York, NY 10025), 1985. Illustrations. Index. P. 391. \$24.95.

This collection of articles from the original Federal Writers Project American Guide Series will quicken a new appreciation in those who spend a portion of their time pursuing local and regional history. This book, edited by Archie Hobson, contains 500 passages from the Guides and nearly 100 illustrations from the original volumes. Bill Strott, Director of the American Studies and American Civilization Program at the University of Texas, Austin, and the author of several books on the Depression, has written an excellent introduction which summarizes the background on the Guides project and outlines the literary and historical contributions of the series.

The book is organized under general headings as "Moving About," "Everyday Life," "The Land and Its Impact," and "Work," and sub-categories with titles ranging from "Factory and Workshop," and "Features" to "The Urban Scene," and "The Wilderness." Here are folklore, local history, and social commentaries, humor, and irony and whimsy. Although the excerpts cover all states, Texas is well represented with entries that range from the Big Thicket to "Sunday houses."

The continued popularity of the Guides is attested by the fact that Texas Public Libraries still have originals and reprints on their shelves and publishers have found it profitable to reprint them.

This is an entertaining work; yet modern day historians, particularly the local historian, stand to learn much from the book on how to research and write history. Too often local historians exclude folklore, the humor, the peculiarities of man and place in their efforts to project a polite, polished, and sanitary image of the past.

A bibliography points the reader to secondary sources on the Federal Writers Project and a complete list of the state and city guides. Readers will undoubtedly want to seek out the Texas state guide, *Texas: A Guide to the Lone Star State* (Texas State Highway Commission, 1940).

James H. Conrad
East Texas State University

Frederic Remington: A Biography. By Peggy and Harold Samuels. (University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, Texas 78713), 1985. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. P. 537. \$12.95.

Despite the relative brevity of his life (1861-1909), Frederic Remington became the most celebrated "western artist" of his generation. His sketches, paintings and sculptures personified the action and romance of the closing days of the frontier, and they complemented the equally strong

images of Frederick Jackson Turner, Owen Wister, and Theodore Roosevelt. The imagery, however, obscured much of the reality about Remington's life. Notwithstanding all his public relations efforts to identify himself as a former cowboy and as "one who had been there," Remington came to the West only for brief periods and he failed as both a sheep rancher and saloon keeper. He also displayed an insecurity that embarrassed him on several occasions, including the needless fight with fellow artist Charles Schreyvogel over the accuracy of the latter's painting entitled "Custer's Demand."

Many books and articles have been written about this man during the past seventy years, but this effort will probably become the standard work for decades to come. It explores all aspects of his life as artist, war correspondent, serious writer, shrewd businessman, and companion of celebrated Americans. Furthermore, it reveals some of his personal weaknesses along with his public triumphs. In preparing to write this book, art collectors Peggy and Harold Samuels assembled Remington's original diaries, journals, and 1,400 private letters, as well as oral history interviews conducted during the 1930s by the Federal Writers' Project. The exhaustive bibliography lists 1,104 citations, but the book's effectiveness is greatly undermined by a horrendous footnoting system. The reader will also be titillated by the authors' convincing argument that in the last years of his life Remington sought greater acceptance from highbrow art critics and was turned from simple illustration to become an accomplished practitioner of American Impressionism. Even had that success come to Remington, it would never have surpassed his well-deserved reputation as America's foremost Western artist.

Michael L. Tate

University of Nebraska at Omaha

On the Border. By Tom Miller. (University of Arizona Press, 1615 E. Speedway, Tucson, Arizona 85719), 1985. Maps. Bibliography. Index. P. 225. \$7.95.

Tom Miller's *On the Border* visits each United States - Mexico border crossing from East to West. This borderland becomes his true country for four months and two thousand miles, a third country with its own identity, "a colony unto itself, long and narrow" (p. xii). Miller crossed the frontier some 400 times, talking with residents of almost all border towns. His purpose is to show the wide range of activities and attitudes among the border people, and to illuminate their day-to-day struggles and pleasures.

The author successfully achieves his purpose, and uses available sources well. In his fifteen chapters, he deals with smuggling, politics, economic and social conditions, the land, contests, food, lottery tickets, etc., especially the migration of the Mexican people. A book of cultural

history, filled with portraits and anecdotes about all kinds of people, it is also a guide book — almost two-thirds of it dealing with the Texas - Mexican border. It is a book written with good style, one difficult to stop reading.

Francisco D. Lopez-Herrera
Texas A&I University

Agrarian Warlord. Saturnino Cedillo and the Mexican Revolution in San Luis Potosi. By Dudley Ankerson. (Northern Illinois University Press, DeKalb, Ill. 60115-2858), 1984. Appendices. Glossary. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 303. \$32.00.

Dudley Ankerson seeks answers to a question currently being debated by Mexicanists: what relationship existed at the state level between political stabilization and agrarian reform in Mexico? For explanations, he has focused on the state of San Luis Potosi in the post-revolutionary era. The setting therein contains the desirable elements for such an inquiry: an agrarian movement by a popular *caudillo* reluctant to bow to the national agrarian bureaucracy.

The book is essentially a political biography of Saturnino Cedillo, a former *ranchero* who rose to military chieftain during the revolution. The majority of the book is devoted to the era between 1920-1940 and details Cedillo's consolidation of power in San Luis Potosi by winning over the *campesinos* (peasants) through land reform and fighting battles for the national government. By 1927, Cedillo had become governor of the state and since he remained loyal to the national government, presidents tolerated his control over that state's affairs. But as President Lazaro Cardenas attempted to assert the pre-eminence of the central government, Cedillo refused to yield his regional autonomy. In 1938, he revolted against Cardenas and met death on the battlefield. The *campesinos* who had depended on Cedillo for representation, now had to look to the government in Mexico City for their survival.

Solidly based on materials culled from various important archives in Mexico, *Agrarian Warlord* is an addition to the growing number of biographies on the major figures of the revolution. We are fast gaining a clearer picture of how regional *caudillos* were brought under the fold of the national government in the 1930s and how the peasants were subordinated to the new ruling class that surfaced after the revolution. The reasons given as explanations as to why living standards in the rural sector have risen only slightly since 1920 is a major contribution advanced by this significant book.

Arnoldo De Leon
Angelo State University

Ballot Box 13. How Lyndon Johnson Won His 1948 Senate Race by 87 Contested Votes. By Mary Kahl. (McFarland & Co., Inc., Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640), 1983. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 272. \$18.95.

Ballot Box 13 — How Lyndon Johnson Won His 1948 Senate Race by 87 Contested Votes by Mary Kahl is another look at what may be the most researched and investigated election in American history. Lyndon Johnson's narrow victory over former Texas Governor Coke Stevenson has been the subject of numerous books and articles by those fascinated by the story of the rise to power of Lyndon Baines Johnson and by those convinced that his elevation to the U.S. Senate and eventually to the White House resulted from a corrupt political machine. The controversy centers around "Box 13" in Wells County, where it was alleged that election officials, under the control of the infamous George Parr, added 200 votes to Johnson's total after the polls closed to provide the narrow 87 vote margin of victory for their candidate.

The author clearly and impartially tells the story of this famous Senate election and traces in detail the events that followed that election. The book gives an excellent account of the political and legal conflict that took place between the Johnson and the Stevenson forces from the time the polls closed on August 24, 1948 until the U.S. Senate finally ended the dispute by refusing to hear Coke Stevenson's request for a thorough investigation of the election on July 27, 1949.

Chapters that are especially informative and entertaining are those dealing with the proceedings of the 1948 Democratic State Convention, with the role of the federal courts in the conflict, with the investigation by federal commissioners of voting practices in Duval, Wells, and Zavala counties, and with the role played in the investigation by the famous Texas ranger Frank Hamer.

The book is well documented and contains an abundance of quotations from newspaper articles, editorials, and candidate speeches of the period. The impact of the text is only slightly interrupted by the unfortunate practice of most publishers today of locating the footnotes at the end of the book.

J. David Cox
Stephen F. Austin State University

Private Black Colleges in Texas, 1865-1954. By Michael R. Heintze. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1985. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. P. 211. \$27.95.

Some eleven private black colleges in Texas — Paul Quinn, Wiley, Tillotson, Bishop, Guadalupe, Mary Allen, Jarvis Christian, Texas, St. Philip's, Samuel Houston, and Butler — are the subjects of this study.

Past studies of such colleges by black authors generally have focused on the institution's merits and contributions to the community, while academic deficiencies have been emphasized by white historians. This author offers a revisionist approach to the role of these colleges which have contributed leadership to the black community and "provided many black Texans with their only chance for an education and a better way of life (p. 185)."

Private colleges in their incipient years, be they white or black, had more in common in late nineteenth century Texas than the author indicates. Fiscal difficulties were nigh universal as Protestant denominations vied with one another to establish "Christian" colleges for each race. Hardly any of these institutions offered college-level instruction, even though those of both races gave lip service to a liberal arts curriculum. The author quoted a U.S. Department of Interior Bulletin which stated that black colleges through the South "had an almost 'fatalistic belief' in the study of Latin and Greek (p. 6)." The same could have been said of white denominational institutions.

A classical education for the "talented tenth" met with favor in the small private colleges. Eastern philanthropists generally furnished better-known schools with the expensive equipments required for vocational training. No private black college in Texas developed a viable endowment program. Tuition income increased in the 1920s and later participation in the United Negro College fund provided assistance.

Meanwhile, social regulations in private black colleges restrained the personal conduct of students until after World War II. Scholars will appreciate the excellent Bibliography and the Introduction, which is essentially a fine bibliographic essay.

Donald E. Everett
Trinity University

A History of Tyler Junior College 1926-1986. By Linda Brown Cross and Robert W. Glover. (Tyler Junior College, P.O. Box 9020, Tyler, TX 75711), 1985. Photographs. Appendices. Index. P. 136.

In recent years fine institutional histories have been published about some of the best universities of Texas: U.T. Austin, Texas A&M, Rice Institute, etc. Considering the vast number of students who attend Texas' network of two-year colleges, it is highly appropriate that books tracing the background of pioneer Texas junior colleges, such as the recent fiftieth anniversary *History of Kilgore Junior College*, have begun to appear.

Linda Brown Cross and Dr. Robert W. Glover, members of the Tyler Junior College faculty who are highly regarded among East Texas historians, have produced *A History of Tyler Junior College 1926 - 1986*. This volume commemorates the sixtieth anniversary of the institution and

serves as a Sesquicentennial project.

The beginnings of Tyler Junior College are especially fascinating, featuring shared facilities and faculty with Tyler High School. The college did not obtain its own campus until after World War II, when junior colleges proliferated across the state. Aside from a chronological history of the institution, Cross and Glover trace the development of the educational program and of athletics and other student activities.

The volume is superbly illustrated with scores of photographs. There is an index and several useful appendices, including a complete faculty directory. The book was funded by Tyler Junior College. Other institutions should be encouraged to sponsor similar projects.

Bill O'Neal
Panola Junior College

Unsung Heroes of Texas: Stories of Courage and Honor from Texas History and Legend. By Ann Ruff. (Gulf Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2608, Houston, TX 77061), 1985. Photographs. Illustrations. Index. P. 126. \$9.95.

Dozens of books have appeared throughout the Texas Sesquicentennial on a wide range of subjects, among them Ann Ruff's *Unsung Heroes of Texas: Stories of Courage and Honor from Texas History and Legend*.

With illustrations by Roxann L. Combs, this small, but well written 125-page history of familiar Texans, and some not so familiar, brings to light those individuals who, in their own way, contributed to this state's long and colorful history.

There are a few favorites: Father Miguel Muldoon, the rebel priest who insisted his flock never take Catholicism seriously; William Goyens, Nacogdoches' black millionaire and troubleshooter for Sam Houston; and Albert Lasker, one-time Galveston resident and known nationally as the "Father of Modern Advertising."

Then those known to certain areas of the state include Martha White McWhirter, who led one of this nation's earliest feminist movements; Ed Westfall, who dodged Native American bullets and arrows; and Wilhelmine Stieler, who remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War in Texas.

To be sure, the individuals she mentions deserve recognition. But the lack of footnotes and a bibliography slightly spoils this handy, bright, well written, and difficult subject.

The work is impressive. And even though Ms. Ruff is not a native Texan, her book is a good introduction to life in Texas. Included are women, men, blacks, Native Americans, and Jews, and the time span ranges from the pre-Republic to the twentieth century. These are individuals who are often overlooked in the standard history texts. Finally, someone has

recognized them for their contributions as minor as they might have been. Fortunately, too, Emily Morgan, the alleged "Yellow Rose of Texas," remains at San Jacinto as merely a song.

Maury Darst
Galveston College

The Web of Southern Social Relations: Women, Family, and Education.
Walter J. Fraser. J. Frank Saunders, Jr., and Jon L. Wakelyn,
Editors. (The University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA 30602). In-
dex. P. 257. \$25.00.

The essays in this volume are stimulating and provocative, and they leave the reader wanting more. Originally presented at the "Symposium on the South: Education, Family, and Women" at Georgia Southern College in April 1984, they are carefully reasoned and most of them, lucidly written. Some are stronger than others, of course, but for even the weakest the research is meticulous and solidly based in quantitative and traditional sources and in public records. Most are also well grounded in the secondary literature. By no means are these essays to curl up with before a cozy fire. Rather, they are rigorous and analytical, and they demand full concentration. In return, they inspire all sorts of ruminations about one's own research.

The word "web" in the title fits the volume well, for the authors investigate interactions between and among Southerners. They analyse family relationships of husbands, and wives, daughters and parents, and deal with such problems as how planters' wives sometimes jealously abused their husbands' unwilling slave mistresses; white culture lowered Indian women's status within the tribes; the white urban poor struggled to maintain autonomy despite their dependence on charity. In recognition of the fact that family includes men, the collection contains articles on fathers' relationships with college-age sons and on young white and black men's responses to the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Like a handful of sharp, clear photographs, the essays present well defined views of a limited number of subjects. While the very selection of topics does illustrate the (still) oft-overlooked diversity of the Southern experience, the essays remain just that, a selection and therefore spotty. They omit the urban professional classes, the Union-sympathizing mountaineers, the sturdy non-slaveholding "yeoman farmers." No collection can deal with all possible topics, so the reader is left hoping, along with the editors, that additional volumes will indeed follow.

Elizabeth York Enstam
Dallas, Texas

Women of the Depression. Caste and Culture in San Antonio, 1929-1939.

By Julia Kirk Blackwelder. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1984. Appendices. Sources. Index. P. 279. \$22.50.

This study assesses the effects of the Great Depression on the lives of Hispanic, black, and Anglo women in one of America's unique — yet one of her poorest — cities, San Antonio, Texas. It should be examined by anyone interested in women's studies, in the history of organized labor, or in the study of race, migration, and integration.

Between 1929-1939 San Antonio had proportionally the largest Mexican-American population of any medium or large city in the nation, and almost all the city's Hispanics were Mexican-Americans, concentrated in West Side slums. During the repatriation drive of the 1930's many of these Hispanic families lived with the fear of deportation. In addition, the curtailment of agricultural labor nationwide displaced Hispanic migrant workers who sought year-long survival in the Alamo City. These workers generally lacked the necessary work experience to compete successfully for urban jobs, and they usually lacked the mutual-support networks blacks had to fall back on.

Blackwelder's conclusions, based on quantitative data and supported by personal accounts, are that both employers and relief agencies discriminated among women on the basis of caste, which was based on race, color, or ethnicity.

The complexity of the analysis undertaken makes the book structurally unwieldy at times. More importantly, however, it synthesizes sociological and economic information about the impact the Depression years had on a significant sampling of American women.

Ouida Whitaker Dean
Nacogdoches

The New Deal and the West. By Richard Lowitt (Indiana University Press, 10th & Morton Sts., Bloomington, IN 47405), 1984. Photographs. Notes. Bibliographic Notes. Index. P. 283. \$25.00.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt entered office in 1933, the American West was in dire straits. Hot winds and lack of rainfall had decimated the Great Plains as evidenced by an already apparent dust bowl. Farmers futilely fought the elements, their crops destroyed by hail, their cattle succumbing to blizzard-like winters and blistering summers, their lands plagued by hordes of locusts and clouds of blowing soil. Prices were at rock bottom and markets seemed to be nonexistent. With government helpless and discouraged, with people disenchanting and confused, not even a "foolish optimist" should have had any hope.

But within the next eight years the New Deal would extricate "the

West from the depths of depression" as well as raise it, Professor Richard Lowitt of Iowa State University asserted, "to a new and higher plateau" (p. 228). At the forefront of this remarkable recovery was the "Old Curmudgeon," Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes. As Lowitt put it, he was "the dominant figure . . . in the Inland Empire" which comprised the land "from the Rockies to the Sierras and in some areas directly to the Pacific Ocean" (p. 81). Through a number of New Deal agencies, which were under the hegemony of the Interior Department, he protected forests, grazing lands, and minerals of the West. He also created a water empire which would affect erosion control, irrigation, drainage, generation of electricity, supplying of water to rural areas and urban centers, and flood control as well as recreation, wildlife, and forest development. At the same time he was ever cognizant of the Inland Empire's inhabitants, particularly Native Americans. And even though the "New Deal assisted in promoting the public good by aiding and encouraging Indians to help themselves" and even though many "problems remained unsolved . . . , most had been attacked," Lowitt concluded, "and brought into the realm of public discussion" (p. 137).

For anyone interested in the New Deal and Western history, *The New Deal and the West* has to be a necessary library addition. The organization is clear, the writing straightforward, the story intriguing. Once again Lowitt has demonstrated that he is a thorough scholar and a topflight twentieth century historian.

Ben Procter
Texas Christian University

Fort Griffin on the Texas Frontier. By Carl Coke Rister. (The University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, OK 73019), 1956. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Index. P. 232. \$7.95 Paper.

Fort Griffin, 100 miles west of Fort Worth, was established following the devastating Indian raids of the Civil War era. Settler pressure to remove Indians from Texas resulted in military actions eliminating all serious Indian threats by 1880. Fort Griffin's payroll coupled with the need to supply trail drivers and buffalo hunters created a frontier boom town below the fort known as the "flats." A lawless breed flocked to the flats and created a rough, dangerous town. The abandonment of Fort Griffin, slaughter of the buffalo, and failure to obtain a railroad spelled the doom of the "flats."

Rister's book is a regional frontier history with Fort Griffin as the focal point. He skillfully integrated factors such as Indian cultural differences and aspects of living on a Texas frontier. Texas historians interested in frontier history have available a comprehensive, well-documented account of a Texas frontier in paperback.

Charles E. Moss
Stephen F. Austin State University

American Rodeo: From Buffalo Bill to Big Business. By Kristine Fredriksson. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1985. Photographs. Appendices. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 255. \$19.95.

Students of both the American cowboy and the role of sports in American life will welcome the publication of *American Rodeo: From Buffalo Bill to Big Business*. In the most comprehensive and important work on the subject yet produced, Kristine Fredriksson traces the origin and development of American rodeo from its infancy as a cowboy diversion to its maturity as a modern business enterprise and spectator sport.

As promoters such as Buffalo Bill brought the exotic spectacle of roping and riding to a broader audience during the early twentieth century, the social, cultural, and economic implications of the sport became more complex. Poor organization and outright dishonesty in the formative years of rodeo created tensions between management and contestants and resulted in more formal organization and regulation of the sport. That rodeo survived these early trials and continues to flourish despite fresh challenges, particularly from animal rights groups, is due in large measure to America's attachment to the cowboy myth.

Although the author thoroughly documents the historical and mythical connotations of rodeo, several secondary works with questionable interpretive pedigrees (such as the *Time-Life* series on the West) are used unnecessarily to support the text. Knowledgeable readers may also quibble that some aspects of the sport such as the match ropings and smaller rodeos, so important to the social life of many rural Western communities, are neglected. Women rodeo performers also are scarcely mentioned, and the question of why women who once rode broncs and "busted" steers at major rodeos are now confined to less physical events like goat tying and barrel racing is never answered. The treatment of subjects such as these would have made *American Rodeo* a stronger work. Still, it is a fine book that adds measurably to our understanding of rodeo cowboys and their sport.

B. Byron Price
Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum

Journal of an Indian Trader: Anthony Glass and the Texas Trading Frontier, 1790-1810. Edited by Dan Flores. (Texas A&M Press, Drawer C, College Station, Texas 77843), 1985. Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 158. \$19.50.

The publication of Anthony Glass's journal is a major contribution to the literature dealing with the early West and, in particular, with early Texas. The journal covers the period of July 6, 1808 through February

15, 1809 and, as Glass said, "The purpose of the Voyage was to trade with the Panis and the Commanche Indians . . ."

Glass and his party of eleven traveled from Natchitoches, Louisiana, to the Taovaya-Wichita village on the Red River in what is now Jefferson County, Oklahoma. After spending two months on the Red River, Glass traveled southwest into Texas, making a loop that took him as far west as present-day Brownwood, south almost as far as the junction of the Llano and Colorado rivers, and northeast toward modern Hillsboro.

As an observer of Texas on the eve of Anglo colonization, Glass provides an interesting and valuable picture of the land and its inhabitants. His observations of the Comanche before they acquired their reputation as the terror of the Texas frontier are particularly interesting. Equally as valuable as Glass's observations are Dan Flores's extensive notes. He guides the reader through the journal with detailed explanations based not only on extensive research but also on a physical examination of Glass's route.

It would have been more convenient for the reader if Flores's notes had been printed with the journal instead of collected at the end, an editorial decision that forces the reader to bounce back and forth from journal to notes. Despite this minor editorial shortcoming, *Journal of an Indian Trader* is a major addition to any collection dealing with the West or Texas.

Ron Spiller
Nacogdoches, Texas

Will Rogers: A Bio-Bibliography. By Peter C. Rollins. (Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Westport, Connecticut 06881), 1984. Photographs. Notes. Index. P. 285. \$35.00.

The "Bio-Bibliographical" approach to topics of historical import has been pioneered by Greenwood Press, and Professor Rollins' volume is a welcome addition to the growing list in the series.

The author breaks his study into several units. Chapters One and Two relate to Rogers' life and career while Chapter Three takes an exegetical approach to his humor. Chapter Four is an extended bibliographical essay. Chapters Five through Seven relate factual information regarding sources by Rogers and on Rogers' career in addition to archival holdings on the famed humorist.

All in all, the author has packed much material in some 280 pages. The book is a welcome addition to our secondary material on Will Rogers. Rollins is to be congratulated for a job well done.

James Smallwood
Oklahoma State University

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A Stake in the Prairie. Mesquite, Texas. By the Mesquite Historical Committee. (Mesquite Historical Committee, P.O. Box 1763, Mesquite, TX 75149), 1984. Photographs. Acknowledgements. Index. P. 260. \$17.50.

The Mesquite story "from frontier prairie grasslands to bustling Space-Age population center" is traced in an attractive nine- by eleven-inch volume produced by the Committee on the Writing of Mesquite's History. As a committee effort, the result achieves a high degree of uniformity and continuity.

Events leading to the founding of the community in east Dallas County near the East Fork of the Trinity River are examined by Jewel Irwin Shankles and David Bay in "The Land and Its People," and by Max McCullough in "Peters and Mercer Colonies." McCullough continues with the settlement and development of the community until 1877, when Julie Mahaffey provides a chronology to 1905.

McCullough resumes the narration of the community struggle for progress between 1905 and 1921 before delegating the era of the 1920s to Weldon Lacy and of the 1930s to Susanne Starling. Lacy then follows Mesquite through World War II and the aftermath into the postwar boomtown era.

Art Greenhaw views the 1960s and the 1970s in his requiem for the hamlet as population growth robs Mesquite of its cohesive past and hurls the city into the top twenty-five most populous in the state. Starling and Lacy conclude with a brief but melanchony excursion into the 1980s amid reports of Town Meetings that little unity remains in the sprawling suburb whose economy is denominated by absentee owners. Except for loyalty to the school system and local athletic teams, Mesquite residents express few common interests. Some optimism is voiced in the solutions being sought by a task force know as Mesquite 2000.

Especially appealing in the book are the photographs, maps, and illustrations presented in sharp sepia tones by Taylor Publishing Co. Sidelight stories framed under separate headings are spliced intermittently into the text. A possible source of annoyance to readers is the lack of an overall bibliography, use of various styles in reporting sources at the end of chapters or clusters of chapters, and failure to include notes and page numbers that would enable anyone to document information in specific sources.

If modern Mesquite lacks cohesiveness, the community can still take pride in the teamwork that created a comprehensive and readable volume of history.

Fred Tarpley
East Texas State University

From Rattlesnakes to Road Agents, Rough Times on the Frio. By Frances Bramlette Farris and edited by C.L. Sonnichsen. (Texas Christian University Press, Fort Worth, TX 76129), 1985. Photographs. P. 137. \$14.95.

Of all the various forms of historical writing, memoirs are perhaps the most charming. Rarely are such works totally reliable in their accuracy; even more rarely do they provide all of the information desired. But almost always there are little bits and pieces of information and ideas scattered through the pages that add to our understanding of the past. *From Rattlesnakes to Road Agents* is a good example of this type of literature.

The author, Frances Bramlette Farris, presents an account of life on the Texas frontier in the last half of the nineteenth century. A part of the westward migration of post-Civil War Texans, her family settled in the brush country some forty or fifty miles southwest of San Antonio. Born in 1875, Frances, or "Fan", Bramlette tells her story of growing up along the banks of the Frio River with some pride but without boasting. She puts some emphasis on hardship and danger but without any evidence of self-pity or regret. Her account, though sketchy in some respects, is rich in detail in others.

The memoir is particularly revealing in its treatment of Indian attacks, lawlessness, and frontier leisure-time activities. If Bramlette's memories are correct and true for other areas, one may conclude that Indian raids were rare and involved few Indians. But her picture of the treatment given the unwary settler by Indian raiders is one of uncommon brutality and savagery.

Bramlette's memoir supports the traditional interpretation which emphasizes the lawlessness of post-Civil War Texas. She is cautious in her use of names. But her story suggests that lawlessness was generally the work of local citizens whose identities were well-known in the community.

If there is a surprise in the book, it is in Bramlette's description of frontier social activities. She describes a world where dances and parties were frequent, well attended, and lengthy. Inasmuch as the Bramlette family was more affluent than most, her experiences may not have been typical. But if she is correct, the Texas frontier was not as austere and lonely as we have been led to believe.

All in all, the book is well done. C.L. Sonnichen, editor of the memoir, did his work in a predictably tasteful and thoughtful way, and the Texas Christian University Press produced an attractive book.

Adrian Anderson
Lamar University